



CENTRAL NSW  
JOINT ORGANISATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Approved by: Cr Kevin Beatty, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Cabonne Council

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### **Chair of Central NSW JO encourages community members to respond to the for the EIS for Blackheath to Little Hartley**

“A safe, swift and secure link between Sydney and Central NSW remains a priority for our communities,” said Cr Kevin Beatty, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Cabonne Council.

“The safety, time and productivity benefits are so important for our visitors, our freight and for us as we travel to and from Sydney,” said Cr Beatty.

At the moment the focus is on the Great Western Highway between Blackheath and Little Hartley where the submission period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is due Wednesday 1 March 2023.

The Great Western Highway is vulnerable to closure because it is only one lane in each direction in sections that have yet to be upgraded and there is a lack of alternative routes. It is susceptible to closure during traffic incidents, natural disasters and extreme weather events. When lanes are closed traffic cannot be easily diverted due to there being only one lane in each direction. This often results in major delays, particularly on weekends and peak holiday periods. For example, at Mount Victoria, the steep grades of Victoria Pass often have queues of up to eight kilometres in length and delays of up to 80 minutes.

“Realisation of a safe swift and secure link between Sydney and Central NSW is a very big opportunity and the Mayors of the region are keen to ensure that we support every step of the way,” said Cr Beatty.

“Submissions can be made at [Great Western Highway Blackheath to Little Hartley | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and I am encouraging everyone to have a go,” said Cr Beatty.

**ENDS**

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